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TO: California Physicians and Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Interim Chief  
Immunization Branch,  
Division of Communicable Disease Control  
Center for Infectious Diseases

SUBJECT: Ordering Influenza Vaccine for the 2009-2010 Season

Dear Colleague:

Pre-booking of influenza vaccine the 2009-2010 season has begun. Contact your distributor or manufacturer (current list at [www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/)) regarding their ordering procedures.

Recent California laws should be considered when hospitals and health care providers begin ordering flu vaccine for 2009-2010 season.

For staff at general acute care hospitals:

1. Effective October 1 2008, California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 20392.9 requires general acute care hospitals to offer influenza and pneumococcal immunizations to their inpatients aged 65 years or older prior to discharge: [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab\\_0101-0150/ab\\_106\\_bill\\_20071010\\_chaptered.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/ab_106_bill_20071010_chaptered.html)
1. H&S Code Section 1288.7 requires general acute care hospitals to offer free influenza vaccinations to its employees onsite each year: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=01001-02000&file=1288.5-1288.9>

For everybody providing influenza vaccine:

2. H&S Code Section 124172 forbids the administration of mercury-containing vaccines to persons who are pregnant or younger than 3 years old. These persons should receive doses with traces of or no mercury (thimerosal):

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=124001-125000&file=124172>.

The following information is provided to assist you in complying with the law on mercury in vaccines when ordering influenza vaccine.

**A) The following influenza vaccine meets the State law's mercury limit and is currently licensed for use in children younger than 3 years old:**

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone <sup>®</sup> No Preservative: Pediatric Dose (Children 6-35 months of age)	prefilled 0.25 mL unit dose syringes
MedImmune Inc	FluMist <sup>®</sup> (Persons 2-49 years of age)	prefilled 0.2 mL unit dose nasal sprayer

**B) The following influenza vaccines meet the State law regarding the mercury limit and may be given to pregnant women:**

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
CSL Limited	Afluria <sup>®</sup> (no preservative)	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes – <i>check with manufacturer or distributor regarding availability in 2009-2010 season</i>
GlaxoSmithKline	Fluarix <sup>®</sup>	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes
Novartis	Fluvirin <sup>®</sup> Preservative-free	prefilled 0.5 mL syringes – <i>check with manufacturer or distributor regarding availability in 2009-2010 season</i>
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone <sup>®</sup> No Preservative	0.5 mL unit dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone <sup>®</sup> No Preservative	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes

**C) The following influenza vaccines do not meet the State law regarding the mercury limit:**

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
CSL Limited	Afluria <sup>®</sup>	5 mL multi-dose vial
GlaxoSmithKline	FluLaval <sup>®</sup>	5 mL multi-dose vial
Novartis/Chiron	Fluvirin <sup>®</sup>	5 mL multi-dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone <sup>®</sup>	5 mL multi-dose vial

Expanded influenza recommendations for pediatric population

For 2009-10 the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends annual influenza vaccination for all children from 6 months to 18 years of age. We urge you to consider this recommendation in your initial and subsequent orders of influenza vaccine for 2009-10.

The ability of medical practices to provide immunization to all children this season will vary. With ample vaccine supply in this season (2008-09), providers have been able to re-order influenza vaccine as needed to restock their supplies. Production for 2009-10 is anticipated, but not guaranteed, to be at similar or at greater volume.

For additional questions about these topics, please contact either

- 1) Your local health department's immunization program, which is listed at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/depts.htm> under "Vaccine Programs - Local Health Department Listing," or
- 2) Nisha Gandhi at CDPH Immunization Branch, telephone number (510) 620-3732.

cc: Immunization Branch Field Representatives  
Local Health Department Immunization Coordinators  
Local Health Department Health Officers